

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Watch the Wild West Come to Life at Gold Rush Days! *Visit Old Sacramento During an Extended Labor Day Weekend September 4-7, 2009*

SACRAMENTO – The free Gold Rush Days event–Sacramento’s heritage celebration–is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend in Old Sacramento. More than 200 tons of dirt will be dumped on the streets of Sacramento’s 27-acre historic district as the annual festival “turns back the clock,” transforming Old Sacramento into a scene straight out of the 1850s. The four-day event features Wild West gun fights on the streets of Old Sacramento every day starting at high noon, costumed re-enactors, live entertainment, musicians playing period instruments, gold panning and many other aspects of life during the Gold Rush.

The traditional and popular Tent City in Old Sacramento State Historic Park offers expanded hands-on period activities this year, including: gold panning, old fashioned bowling, gambling in the Stinking Tent Saloon or the Sibley Saloon, ballroom dancing lessons, handcar rides and Sacramento Southern Railroad steam train rides. In addition, visitors can enjoy watching demonstrations of the Sutter Militia as they go through their paces, rope making, basket weaving, blacksmithing, tinsmithing, lacemaking, crocheting, millinery, sewing and even butter churning. Guests can also visit an old time dentist, a real mining camp and an 1876 train station baggage room. Also, Sarsaparilla and homemade biscuits and butter sampling always draws a crowd.

In 2009, the event will see further expansion of the live music venue at the Save Mart BBQ Patio and Farmers’ Market, which features local musicians and great western BBQ. Additionally, dancers and musicians will perform according to long-held traditions throughout the event. There will be a variety of ethnicities represented that will include European, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, African American and California Indian. New this year, lively entertainment will also be available in the Eagle Theatre and at the I Street outdoor stage area.

Admission to Gold Rush Days is FREE; and event hours are as follows: Friday, September 4, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Saturday, September 5, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, September 6, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Monday, September 7, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.sacramentogoldrushdays.com or call (916) 808-7777.

In addition, guests can enjoy a Gold Rush era value with entrances to two museums–the California State Railroad Museum and the Sacramento History Museum–for the price of one. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children 6-17 years of age with children five and under free. Guests are encouraged to discover gold in each of the two museums–the priceless Lost Spike in the California State Railroad Museum and the Gold Nugget in the Sacramento History Museum.

Gold Rush Days is produced and promoted in cooperation with the City of Sacramento, the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau, California State Parks, the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation and the Discovery Museum’s

Gold Rush History Center. For more information about Gold Rush Days specifically, or about visiting Sacramento generally, including lodging and attractions, www.sacramentogoldrushdays.com or call (916) 808-7777.

For More Events Visit www.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict